

**Arizona State Mine Inspector**

DOUGLAS T. MARTIN
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February 18, 1997

Shirin Tolle, Project Officer
Water Protection Approvals and Permits Section-Mining Unit
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
3033 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Ms. Tolle:

Enclosed are my comments pertaining to Permit Number P10704 (BHP Copper-Florence Project)

- 1) There appear to be adequate safeguards to prevent contamination of aquifers in the area.
- 2) The project will have virtually no long term impact on the land it uses. It appears the land could be returned to agricultural use shortly after completion of mineral extraction activities.
- 3) Some mathematical errors (mainly in the area of conversion factors) are noted in the 125 page state document (primarily on pages 5 & 6).

The State Mine Inspector recommends approval of this permit, as we can find nothing that will adversely affect the health and safety of Arizona's citizens. We appreciate being offered the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bill Hawes

Assistant Mine Inspector